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15 June 1961

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

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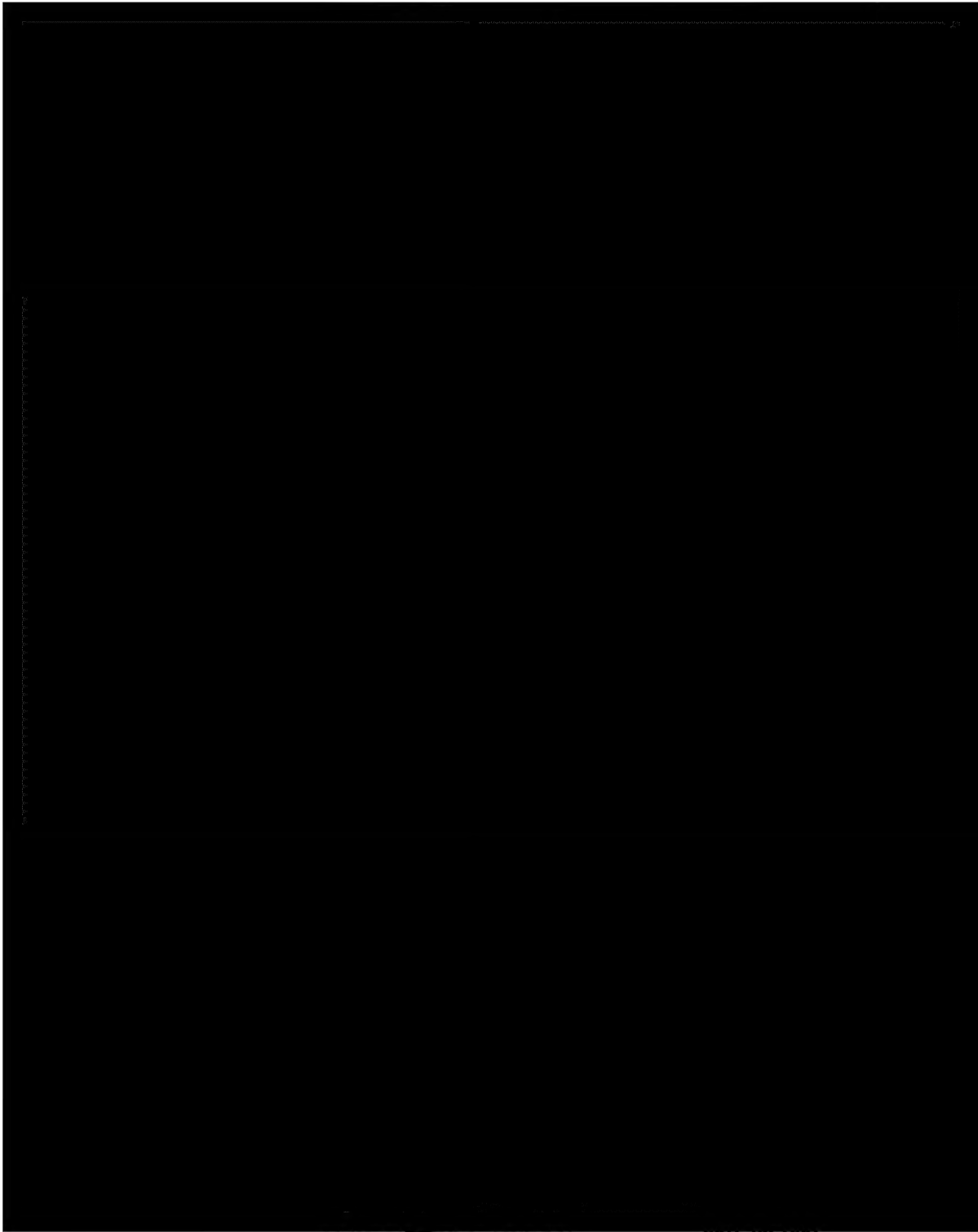
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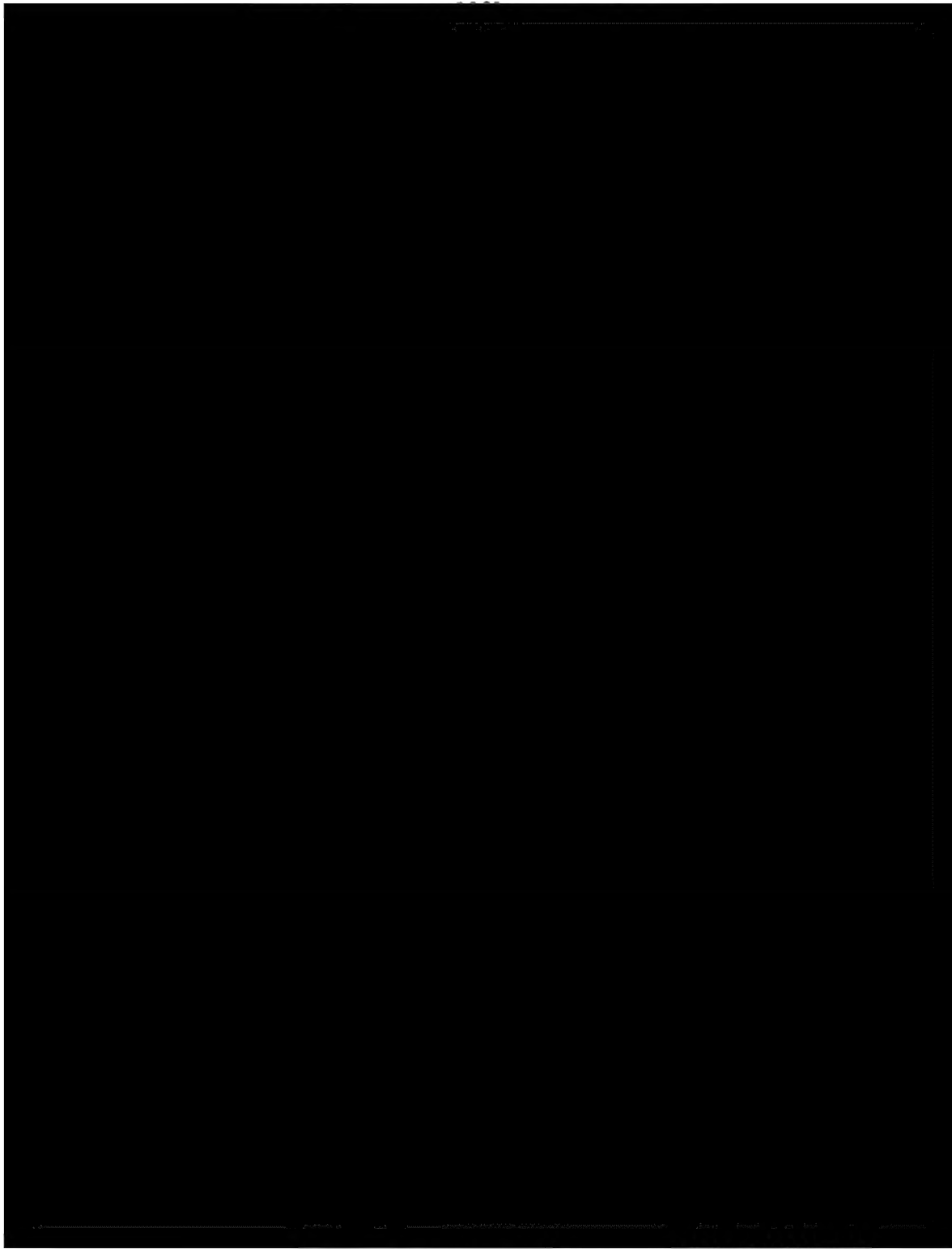


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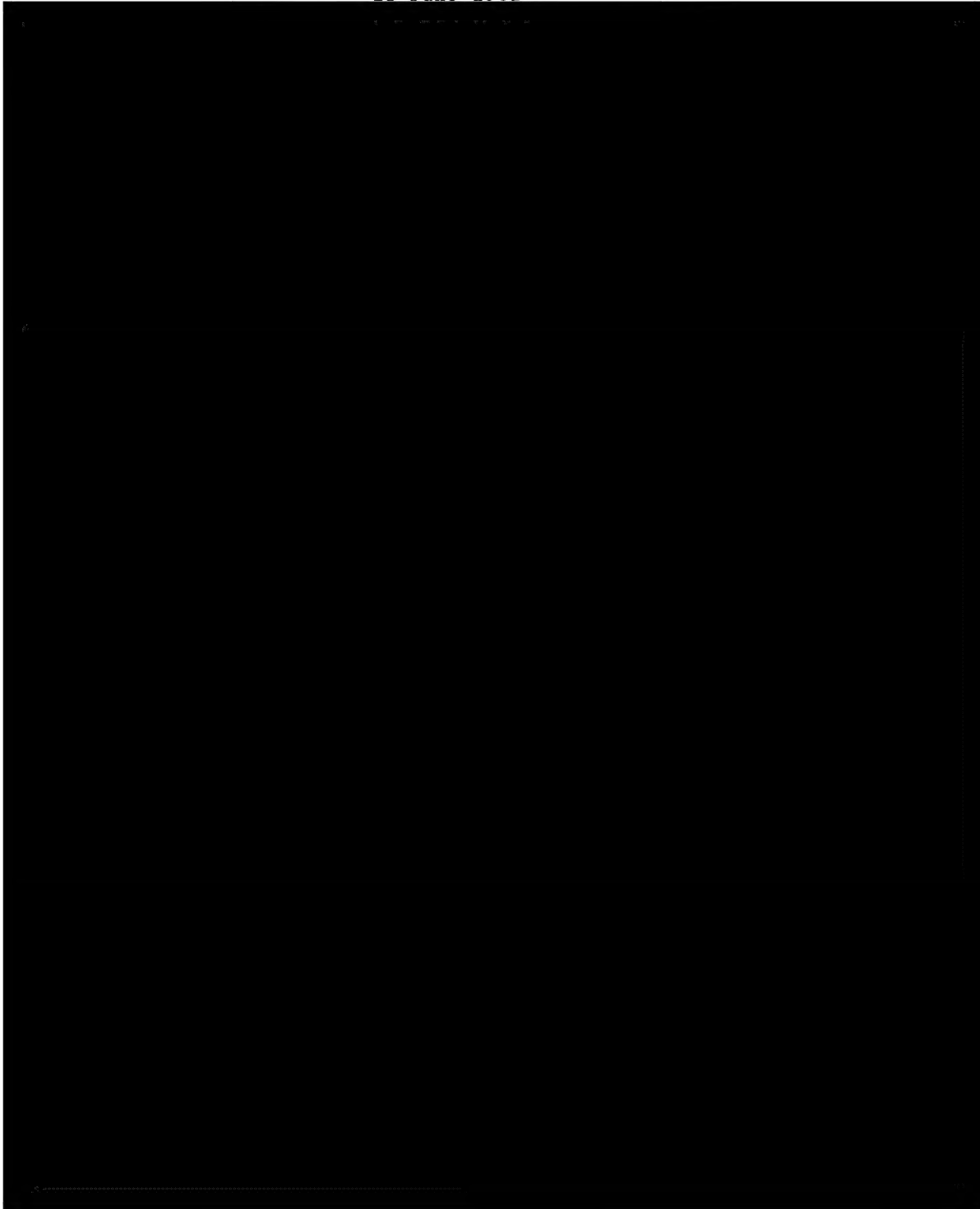
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Maj. Gen. Pak Chong-hui, the generally acknowledged leader of the South Korean military junta, has assumed the chairmanship of the standing committee of the ruling Supreme Council for National Reconstruction. The eight-man committee is expected to become the focal point of power in the new regime. Pak will have to deal with the problems posed by factional cleavages in the junta, which appears to be composed of at least three main groups. The public remains generally apathetic. (Secret Noform)

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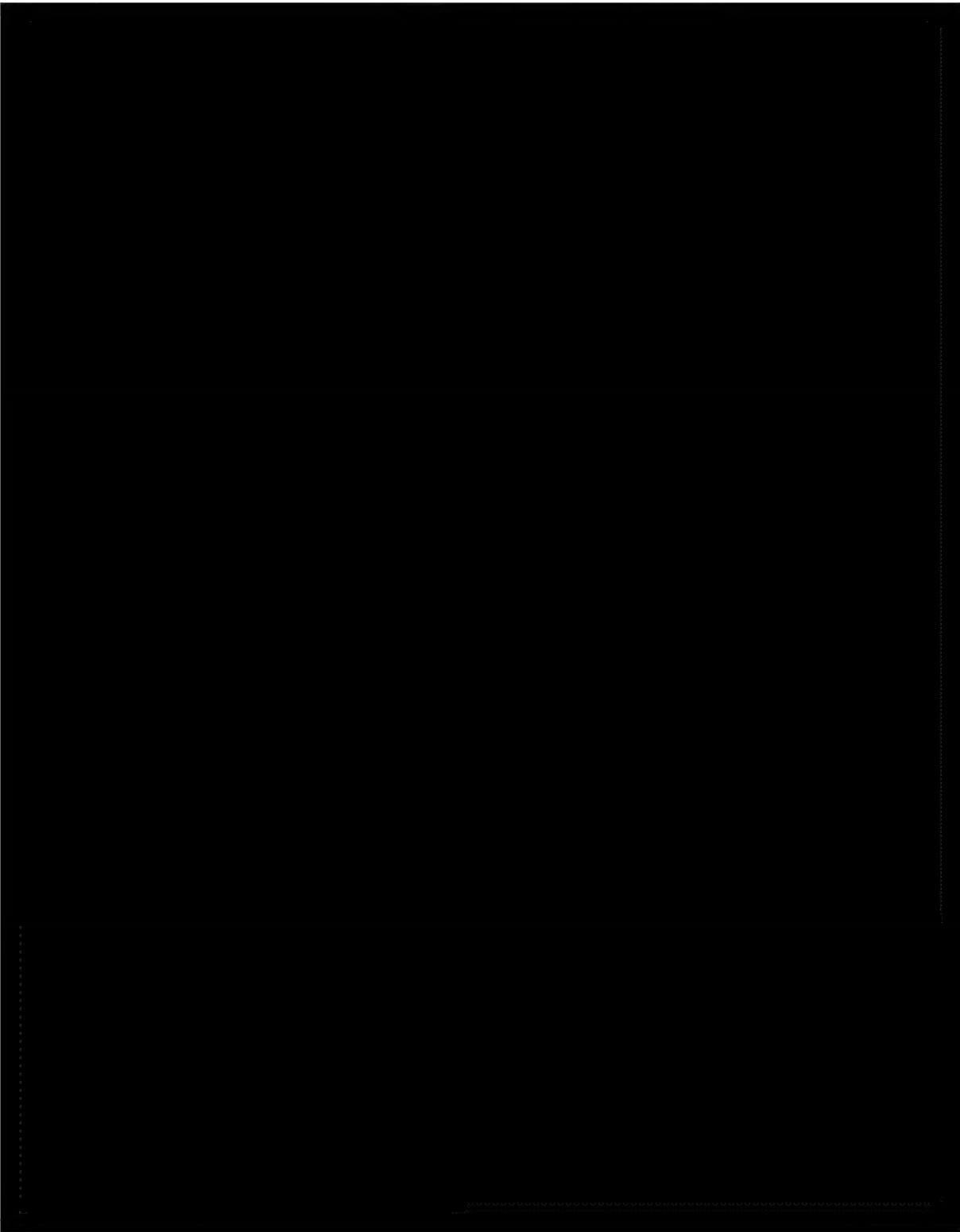
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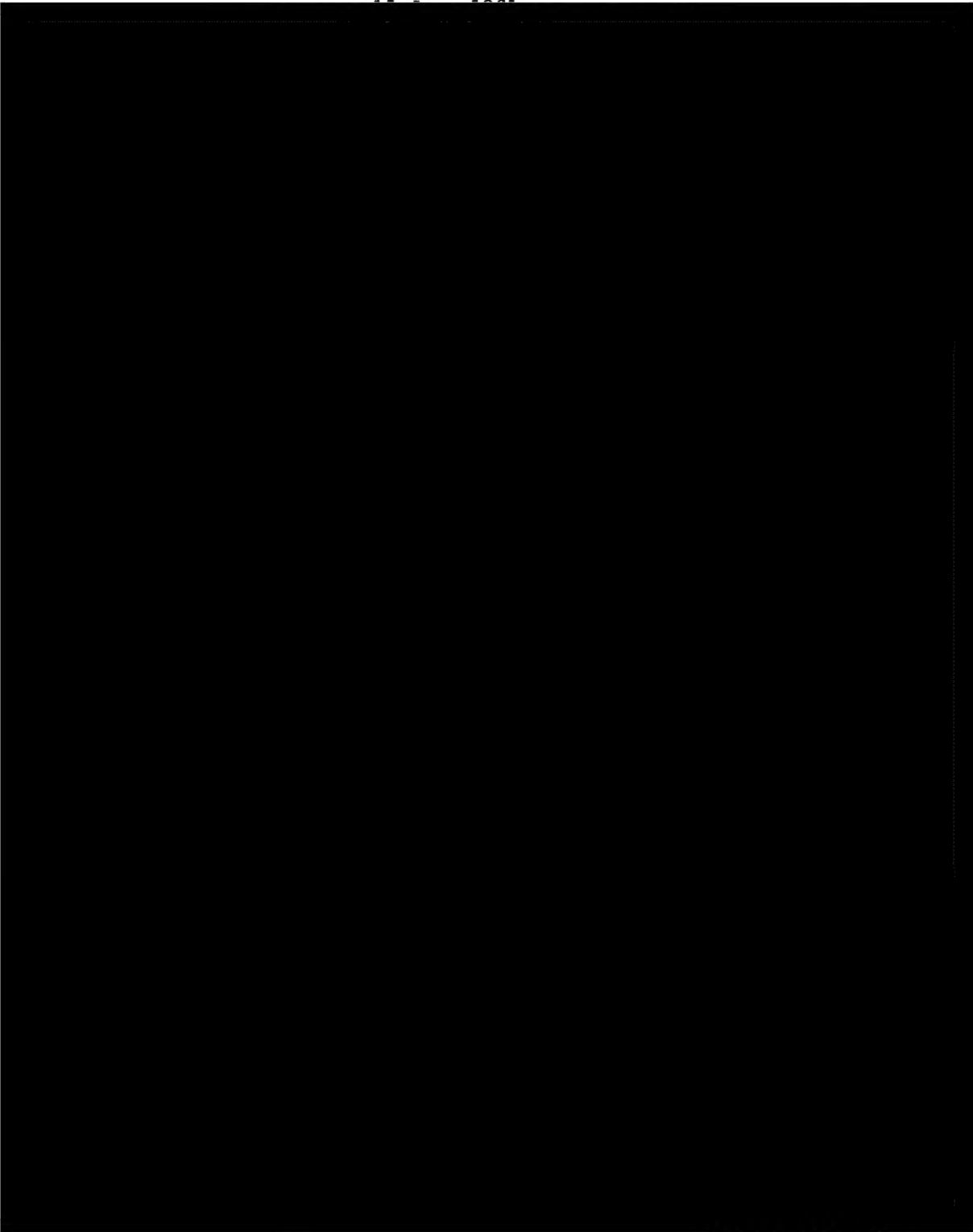
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SOUTH KOREA

The dominant position of Maj. Gen. Pak Chong-hui, the generally acknowledged leader of the South Korean military junta, is emphasized by his assumption on 9 June of the chairmanship of the standing committee of the ruling Supreme Council for National Reconstruction (SCNR). In addition to the chairman, the standing committee is composed of the heads of the seven committees covering the general areas of government administration and appears likely to become the focal point of power within the SCNR.

There is considerable evidence, however, that Pak's authority is circumscribed by factional divisions within the junta. Recent voting patterns in the 32-member Supreme Council reveal three primary groupings, with most junior officers looking to Lt. Col. Kim Chong-pil for leadership. Kim is the intelligence and security boss for the regime but is not a member of the Supreme Council. As SCNR members are presently identified, Pak is supported by 15, Kim by 10, and SCNR chairman Lt. Gen. Chang To-yong by 5. Kim has reportedly been associated with Pak since the earliest stages of the coup, but recent information has raised some question as to his loyalty to Pak.

There have been indications that the regime will adopt a harsher policy toward high officials of the former government. Pak recently publicly charged a number of former ministers with Communist activities. On 9 June he informed [REDACTED]

that the junior officers were pushing for a mass purge of senior generals. He implied that he could restrain them, but conceded that additional arrests of senior officers would be forthcoming.

A number of former senior officers--such as retired General Chong Il-kwon, ambassador-designate to the United States--reportedly will be given diplomatic assignments to keep them out of the country. One exception, however, is retired Lt. Gen. Song Yo-chan, who is studying in the United States and has been named minister of defense to succeed Acting Minister Sin Ung-kyun. Song is credited with having avoided large-scale bloodshed when he was army chief of staff at the time of Rhee's ouster last year. He is noted for his efforts to combat military corruption and, although he was personally loyal to Rhee, is believed largely to have stayed out of politics.

The public at large remains generally passive toward the regime, but American observers see growing apprehension among educated urban elements. To develop support, the junta has announced the establishment of a nationwide national front movement designed to "inspire the nation with fresh spirit, encourage new life, and strengthen anti-Communist ideology." A mass rally held in Seoul on 12 June was scheduled. However, some 100,000 persons were expected, but a crowd of only 30,000 attended --mostly teen-age students and housemaids, according to press reports. [REDACTED]

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